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Leominster and Wigmore
Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1946

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
(Private Tel.: Leominster 323)

(Returned to duty on the 1st September, 1946)

Acting Medical Officer of Health ... I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin.),
(Deputy County Medical Officer) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

(Relinquished duty on the 31st August, 1946)

Clerk B. J. SCANDRETT
(On War Service from 1939)

Temporary Clerk MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT

Sanitary Inspector G. E. BULL, M.S.I.A., C.R. San. I.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster and Wigmore
Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1946.

I returned to duty on the 1st September, 1946. This report deals largely, therefore, with the work of Dr. Mackenzie and the other members of the Public Health Staff. May I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to Dr. Mackenzie, who in addition to his own duties as a deputy County Medical Officer of Health, has so ably carried on the duties of Medical Officer of Health during my absence on War service. Great credit is due to your Sanitary Inspector for the way in which he has kept the sanitary services functioning during the difficult war years.

A period of reconstruction is now upon us. Before the war a start had been made on improving housing conditions in the district but the outbreak of war prevented any further progress. We now have to face the pre-war problem, plus, the accumulated dilapidations of the war years. This presents a far greater problem than before owing to the shortage of labour and materials for all forms of construction and because of the increased number of young families living with their relatives under unsatisfactory and over-crowded conditions, a situation which if continued, may be detrimental to the young children born under these circumstances.

I must further draw attention to the need for improving water supplies, particularly in the case of certain piped parish supplies, for example Leintwardine.

H. F. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	94,101
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to the Rate Books	3,081
Rateable Value	£47,927
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£193

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	20.4
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still Birth)	23.9
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	14.2
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	19.6
MATERNAL MORTALITY: There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1946.	

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1946:

LIVE BIRTH RATE	19.1
DEATH RATE	11.5
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	43.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the country districts.

Child Welfare Centre: In the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital, every Friday, 2—4 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic: Organised on a voluntary basis and held at the Hospital annexe.

The County schemes also provide for Maternal and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. G. E. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following Statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations. The explanatory comments are also his.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The situation during the year was very much as in previous years. Owing to a wet summer, no shortage of water was experienced.

WATER SAMPLING.

58 samples of water were taken and sent to the Laboratory with the following results: 30 satisfactory and 28 unsatisfactory. The major part of the district is served by wells, only a few parishes being favoured with a piped supply.

WIGMORE	62 houses on standpipes.
ADLORTON	25 houses on standpipe.
BRAMPTON BRYAN	24 houses and School on Main Supply. 4 houses on standpipes.

LEINTWARDINE	122 houses and School Canteen on Mains.
Kinton Supply	10 houses on standpipes.
Whitton Supply	11 houses on standpipe.
	7 houses from Pump House standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Nothing of importance occurred during the year. With the exception of the parishes served by sewers, the disposal of sewage is effected through septic tanks or by burial in earth.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution was reported during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

House to house collection throughout the district is now carried out by the Local Authority and this is working very satisfactorily.

DISINFECTION ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Fifty-two inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease and disinfection was carried out at 37 houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders, including the Factories Acts, and under enactments, governing meat and foods.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

INSPECTIONS UNDER				Number of inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	1,017	99	5	71
Factories	...	...	...	40	2	—	2
Milk and Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	277	9	—	9
Bakehouses	...	...	...	14	4	—	4
Food Premises	...	...	...	172	1	—	1
Schools	...	...	...	8	1	—	1
Water Supplies	...	...	...	58	13	—	13
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	52	—	—	—
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	11	1	—	1
Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	14	2	—	2
Total	...	...	...	1,663	132	5	104

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

DEFECTS REMEDIED.

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out.

Roofs	...	...	...	27	Pantries provided	...	...	19
Dampness	...	...	...	23	Stairs repaired	...	...	18
Floors	...	...	...	28	Windows repaired	...	...	24
Drains	...	...	...	35	Baths fitted	...	...	7
Wells	...	...	...	13	Cesspools constructed	...	...	10
New sinks fitted	...	...	...	27	Conversion of Privies	...	...	12
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	19	Wash Coppers repaired	...	...	4
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	25	Chimneys repaired	...	...	23
Dangerous Walls	...	...	...	23	W.C. provided	...	...	7
Cooking accommodation	...	...	...	25				

FACTORIES.

Forty inspections have been made at the factories with and without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small, generally only two or three persons being employed. Two informal notices were served for minor defects. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no registered camping sites in the district. Some camps were used by organised parties to help with the harvest. They were inspected and no nuisance occurred. Where camping does occur it is only for a short period.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	717
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1,017
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	99

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	5
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—			
(a) By owners	...	...	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	Nil

VAN DWELLINGS.

There are several dwellings in the district. They are located in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and are of the permanent type having their own water supply and drainage. They are mostly overcrowded on present standards and require dealing with as soon as possible.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Regular inspections were made at the various food shops in the district. One notice was served for linewashing, and this was complied with.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Tinned Meat	...	...	7 lbs.	Pork Pies	...	...	10 lbs.
.. Vegetables	...	...	36 lbs.	Bacon	...	...	258 lbs.
.. Milk	...	...	26 lbs.	Butter	...	...	94 lbs.
.. Fruit	...	...	8 lbs.	Bread	...	...	70 lbs.
.. Fish	...	...	28 lbs.	Fish	...	...	14 lbs.
.. Jam	...	...	6 lbs.	Cheese	...	...	10 lbs.
.. Soup	...	...	8 lbs.	Tea	...	...	6 lbs.

Central slaughtering is carried out in the Borough of Leominster Slaughter House. For this reason no butcher's meat was condemned in this district.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Sonne Dysentery—one outbreak which was soon brought under control, was recorded during the year, in a Children's Home. No other epidemic event of note occurred.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	Age of Patient.											
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough...	—	1	1	4	3	5	1	4	1	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentery...	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
											Over 40	Unknown
												Total

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1946 is indicated in the table below.

	Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age		Total Under 15
	Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group	Number
Locals	243	28.0%	1,033	66.0%	1,276
Evacuees (all ages)	—	—	—	—	250

Since practically all evacuees had returned to their homes by the end of 1946, it was felt desirable to sub-divide the groups of children immunised into "locals" and evacuees. All the records have therefore been re-checked. The figures given this year are not strictly comparable to those given in the Annual Reports of 1945 and 1944. A further source of inaccuracy lies in the fact that a number of children have been immunised privately by their own doctors, some with a plain diphtheria antigen such as A.P.T. or T.A.F., and some with a proprietary combined diphtheria-whooping cough antigen.

The figures do, however, reveal a considerable falling off in the number of children aged 0—4 years, immunised in the years 1944, 1945 and 1946.

"LOCAL" CHILDREN aged 0—4 years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Number immunised during year	—	26	118	113	101	38	86	98
Total immunised at any time	—	26	136	211	259	221	216	243

The immunisation scheme was not started until 1940. Its novelty proved an attraction to parents, but the scattered nature of the district and the extreme pressure of work due to the presence of evacuees made it a slow and difficult job getting round the district. Clinics were held at parish schools and the response at the schools, both in schoolchildren and pre-schoolchildren, was in general satisfactory. The novelty of the scheme wore off and as cases of diphtheria became extremely rare, it has become increasingly difficult to prevent parents from putting off the immunisation course from day to day, until it never gets done at all. In order to obtain and maintain a satisfactory response it is necessary to graft on to the population, immunisation as a normal social habit that the children are immunised just as they are fed, washed and kept clean.

By 1946, it was obvious that this scheme could not be successful without the very active assistance of the general Practitioners and on the 31st July, a scheme was brought into force whereby those children who would not make use of one of the Council's clinics, could obtain free immunisation from their own Doctor. The scheme has worked smoothly and has brought with it the added advantage that our immunisation records are now more complete.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1946 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 39 males and 20 females who normally reside in the district.

During the year 9 new cases were notified, 7 on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period 4 deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, one person recovered from the disease and seven left the district.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1939	23	15	38
1940	22	18	40
1941	24	22	46
1942	27	23	50
1943	39	23	62
1944	41	22	63
1945	39	25	64
1946	37	22	59

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	3	1	4
Cancer (all forms)	10	9	19
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries ...	31	29	60
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory diseases	4	6	10
Diseases of the Digestive System ...	2	4	6
Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	6	4	10
Nephritis	3	3	6
Premature Birth	1	2	3
Diarrhoea, under two years	1	—	1
Violence (including Road Traffic Accidents)	3	2	5
All other causes	8	7	15

